

# AN ANALYSIS OF USING TABOO WORDS IN THE FAST AND FURIOUS SERIES 6 MOVIE

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**Abstract:** *this descriptive research was conducted in order to find out the taboo words in the fast and furious series 6 movie. The data were collected using the sociolinguistic approach. The data were in the form of utterances, while the contexts of the data were the dialogues uttered by the characters in the movie. The sources of the data were the video of Fast and Furious Series 6 movie and its transcript. The data were collected by selecting dialogues containing taboo words after watching the video and matching the transcript with the video carefully. The primary instrument of this research was a data sheet. The results of this research are stated as follows. Firstly, six of the seven types of taboo words occur in the characters' utterances in Fast Six movie. They are mother in law, sex, death, excretion, bodily function and religion. From 59 data found in the movie, death has the biggest number of occurrence with 21 times out of total data (35.59%). The smallest number of taboo words' type is sex and religion with 3 times occurrence (5.08%). Secondly, four functions of taboo words are found in the series namely to show contempt, to draw attention to oneself, to be provocative, and to mock an authority. The most appeared function is to draw attention to oneself with 42 times out of total data (71.18%). The lowest function is to mock authority with only 1 occurrence (1.69%).*

**Key words:** *Sociolinguistics, Taboo Words, Fast Six Movie*

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**Abstrak:** Riset deskriptif ini dilaksanakan bertujuan untuk mencari tahu tentang kata-kata tabu di dalam film fast furious seri 6. Data diambil dengan menggunakan pendekatan sosiolinguistik. Data diambil dalam bentuk ungkapan, sedangkan konteks data dalam bentuk dialog yang diucapkan oleh pemain di dalam film. Data bersumber dari video film fast and furious series 6 dan transkripnya. Data dikumpulkan dengan memilih dialog yang mengandung kata-kata tabu setelah menonton dan mencocokkan video dan transkripnya dengan hati-hati. Instrumen utama penelitian ini adalah penulis sedangkan instrumen kedua adalah lembar data. Hasil penelitian ini adalah sebagai berikut. Pertama, enam dari tujuh tipe kata tabu ada didalam ungkapan pemain film fast six. Mereka adalah berkaitan dengan ibu mertua, seks, kematian, ekskresi, fungsi alami tubuh dan agama. Dari 59 data yang ditemukan di dalam film, kematian dengan tingkat keberadaan terbesar dengan 21 kali dari total data (35,59%). Jumlah terkecil adalah dari jenis kata tabu yang berkaitan dengan seks dan agama dengan total 3 kali kejadian (5,08%). Kedua, empat fungsi dari kata-kata tabu ditemukan dalam seri film ini yaitu untuk menunjukkan penghinaan, untuk menarik perhatian diri sendiri, untuk tujuan provokatif, dan mengejek posisi otoritas. Fungsi yang paling muncul adalah untuk menarik perhatian diri sendiri dan yang terakhir adalah untuk mengejek otoritas. Fungsi yang paling sering muncul adalah untuk menarik perhatian diri sendiri dengan 42 kali kemunculan dari total data (71,18%). Fungsi terendah adalah untuk mengejek posisi otoritas dengan hanya 1 kali kemunculan (1,69%).

**Kata Kunci:** *Sosiolinguistik, Kata-kata Tabu, Film Fast Six*

## INTRODUCTION

Language is important for human beings because people communicate and interact with one and another by using language. Language is a means of communication that is used to transfer information, ideas, and feelings from one person to another. It is used for communication purposes both in written and spoken forms. When we do a communication with others, it means that we also try to build our social interaction with them. According to Liddicoat (2007), social interaction is a means to transact the business of social world which can also affirm participants' identities and also transmit culture to others. In this case, language becomes a kind of tool to maintain our relation with other people. Politeness is one aspect that becomes crucial in a communication. Since people use language to convey messages or to send information every person has their own way to choose the language variation which can confirm one's identity. Some people may prefer to use language that has a strong impact when they are sad or angry. For instance, they use kinds of words considered as inappropriate language. They express their feelings by producing taboo words. People usually produce taboo language for the purpose of swearing because the used expressions are the strongest way to express their dissatisfaction. Besides, these expressions also sometimes emphasize interlocutor's real intention.

Taboo is a wide phenomenon across the world and it has become so sensitive that the word taboo itself is a taboo. Words or sentences, even some topics, have at the moment become so sensitive to talk about that they have become taboos. Someone who ever used the expression like "You're suck" whether to humiliate the interlocutor or even to tell the truth are used taboo. Taboos arise out of social constraints on the individual's behavior where it can cause discomfort, harm or injury. According to Wardhaugh (2000), taboo is the prohibition or avoidance in any society of behavior believed to be harmful to its members in that it would cause them anxiety, embarrassment, or shame. Consequently, language is concerned, certain things are not to be said for certain objects can be referred to only in certain circumstances.

Anderson and Trudgill (1992) stated that taboo can relate to sex *fuck*, religion *For God's sake*, bodily functions *piss*, ethnic groups *nigger*, food, dirt *shit* and death *burn in hell*. They clarify that just because these certain areas are taboo does not mean that these all are forbidden. They are constructed by conscious and unconscious rules. Take the word *sex* for example, it is absolutely not forbidden when used at the right time and place. In northern Australia for example, some tribes are not allowed to utter a dead man's name because it is considered "taboo".

Additionally, Anderson and Trudgill (1990) have divided up swearing into four categories. Namely that swearing can belong to either the expletive, abusive, humorous or auxiliary category. The expletive is the first category where swearing is used to express emotions and is not directed to someone special or other people. Examples are *Hell! Shit!* and *God damn it!* In contrast to expletive category is the abusive category which is directed to other people, derogatory and involves name-calling and diverse types of cursing. *You asshole* and *go to hell!* are some examples. The expletive and the abusive categories are the major ones. They, however mention two other types as well. The humorous category consists also by swearing directed to others but apart from the abusive category, humorous

category is not derogatory. Humorous swearing takes mostly the form of abusive swearing but has the opposite functions where the playfulness is the key and not the offensiveness. For example *Get your ass in gear!* The last category is the auxiliary one which is not directed to anyone or anything. Swearing is just another way of speaking *lazy swearing* and often or always non-emphatic. For example *this fucking...*, *bloody...* (Anderson and Trudgill in Habibovic, 2010).

The existence of taboo words can be seen from various sources such as in movies, song lyrics, and television shows. The existence of various taboo words in those sources is caused by the fact that some people believe that employing taboo words is an appropriate way to express a strong feeling and emotion, especially in the form of swearing. Although, a movie is a kind of fiction, it still can be said as the depiction of our daily real life.

Furthermore, the writer felt really eager to conduct a research that is related to the politeness and impoliteness. In this case, the writer researches about the taboo words that can be found in the script of a movie titled *Fast and Furious 6*. Specifically, the writer will analyze about the taboo words and also the function of using the taboo words.

The goals of this research are to analyze what kind of taboo words that can be found in the movie and also to explain the function of using the taboo words. Taboo words in English will continue to evolve, vary and adjust the sentences as well as the emotions of the speaker. By learning we are aware of taboo words. After we know taboo words, we may understand how the taboo words work and at the same time we may also decide whether we need to use them or we avoid them.

The reason why the writer chooses this movie entitled *Fast and Furious series 6* is because this movie is well known to many people and has been watched by many ages; begin from children, teenager, and adult people. So, in this movie also has many taboo words and culture involved not only America but also another country such as Dominican Republic, Japan, Panama, Mexico, and Brazil.

It is important to analyze about the taboo word because it should be taught to the students about the two sides of using language. The politeness sides and impoliteness sides with hopes that, if the students are taught about the definition of the taboo words, the students know how to use it know how to response to the people who used the taboo words and decide when he or she uses the taboo words.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested in analyzing the taboo words phenomenon in a movie especially on the types of taboo words uttered by the actors and actresses in the movie. Therefore, there is a need to conduct study entitled an analysis of using taboo words in the *fast and furious series 6* movie.

## SOCIOLINGUISTICS

Sociolinguistics comes from the word "socio" and "linguistic". Socio has the same meaning with social that is associated with the community. Linguistics is the science that discusses a particular language and language elements and the connection between elements.

## **TABOO**

Based on Allan and Burridge (2006) taboo is a prescription of behavior that affects everyday life. Tabooed topics typically include: bodies and their effluvia (sweat, snot, faces, menstrual fluid, etc.); the organs and acts of sex, micturition and defecation; diseases, death, killing (including hunting and fishing); naming, addressing, touching, viewing persons and sacred beings, objects and places; food gathering, preparation, and consumption. Besides, Allan says taboo is a proscription of behavior that affects everyday life.

### **1. Types of Taboo**

According to Wardhaugh (1986) taboo is associated with cultural meanings expressed in language. Wardhaugh also states that there are some kinds of taboo, which are related to:

- a. mother in law
- b. animal
- c. sex
- d. death
- e. excretion
- f. bodily function
- g. religion

### **2. Function of Taboo words**

Taboo words are usually uttered because there is a reason behind them. According to Wardhaugh (2006), taboo words are disregarded in particular occasion because they have several functions such as to draw attention to oneself, to show contempt, to be provocative, and to mock authority.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The research was conducted on January – June 2015. It took place on English Study Program of FKIP University of Riau, Bina Widya Campus KM 12,5 Simpang Baru, Pekanbaru. This research employed a mixed- method. Recognizing that all methods have limitations, researchers felt that biases inherent in any single method could neutralize or cancel the biases of other methods. Cresswell (2003) states that a mixed methods approach is one in which the researcher tends to base knowledge claims on pragmatic grounds (e.g., consequence-oriented, problem-centered, and pluralistic). It employs strategies of inquiry that involve collecting data either simultaneously or sequentially to best understand research problems. The data collection also involves gathering both numeric information (e.g., on instruments) as well as text information (e.g., on interviews) so that the final database represents both quantitative and qualitative information. The research begins with quantitative for the first step and then continue with qualitative. This research took

qualitative as dominant data and quantitative as supported data. The analysis of the study was based on classification on data sheets. Since this research employed a mixed-method, the data was also conducted in qualitative research. According to Bousfield (2008), qualitative research can be conducted by employing verbal and nonverbal data. Verbal data can be found in utterances spoken by speakers, while nonverbal data can be seen through gestures, facial expression, tone and physical contact between speakers. In this research, the data were in the form of utterances, spoken by the characters in Fast and Furious 6 movie, while the context of the data was dialogues containing taboo words.

The sources of the data were the video of the movie and the transcript of the dialogues spoken by the characters in Fast and Furious 6 movie. The transcript was not written by the writer since she took it from online source <http://www.yifysubtitles.com/subtitles/fast-furious-6-english-yify-454/>.

The key instrument of this research was the writer herself since she acted as the person who wanted to find the research problems. In qualitative research, according to Moleong (2009) the writer acts as the main instrument. The writer is the planner, data collector, data analyzer and data reporter. The data sheet was in the form of a table for presenting two objectives which became the focus of the study, which were, the types of taboo language and the functions of taboo words. The format of the data sheet could be illustrated in the table below.

Table 3.1. Sample Data Sheet of Types and Functions of Taboo Words in Fast and Furious 6 Movie

No.	Types of Taboo	Function of Taboo Words				Frequency
		TDA	TSC	TBP	TMA	
1	Mother in law					
2	Animal					
3	Sex					
4	Death					
5	Excretion					
6	Bodily function					
7	Religion					

(Wardaugh, 2006)

#### Functions of Taboo Words

TDA : To Draw Attention to Oneself

TSC : To Show Contempt

TBP : To be Provocative

TMA : To Mock Authority

In analyzing the data, the steps of data analysis were described as follows:

**a. Categorization**

After the data were collected, they were categorized. The data that have been collected would be transferred into categorization system which was drawn to a table presented in Table. The categorization was about the types and the functions of taboo words.

**b. Classification**

The next step to do after the categorization system was done was putting the selected utterances containing taboo words as the raw data into the table.

**c. Analysis**

After classification was finished, the data that have been collected were ready to be analyzed. The classified data in the table were analyzed to describe the types and the functions of the taboo words in the dialogues. Moreover, in this research, the data analysis employed quantitative method since it involved number to get the percentage of each phenomenon in the table. Then, those fixed percentages were used to support the interpretation of the data.

**d. Discussion**

The writer confirmed the findings with the theories that were employed in the analysis. After that, the writer also explained the findings in order to answer the objectives of the research.

**e. Report**

The last step was reporting the findings and finally the writer also added some points of conclusions and suggestions.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

This section describes the findings of the research on taboo words uttered by the characters in Fast Furious Series 6 movie. From the analysis process, the total data collected in this research are 59 data and are displayed in Table 4.1. The table shows the frequency of the occurrence of types and functions of taboo words uttered by the characters in Fast Furious Series 6 movie. The results are various and they will be displayed in the following table.

Table 4.1. Frequency of Occurrence of Types and Functions of Taboo Words in Fast Furious Series 6 Movie

No.	Types of Taboo Words	Function of Taboo Words				TOTAL	PERCENTAGE (%)
		To Draw Attention to Oneself	To Show Contempt	To Be Provocative	To Mock Authority		
1.	Mother in Law	4	-	1	-	5	8,47 %
2.	Animal	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Sex	2	-	1	-	3	5,08 %
4.	Death	16	1	4	-	21	35,59 %
5.	Excretion	13	2	2	-	17	28,81 %
6.	Bodily Function	4	1	4	1	10	16,94 %
7.	Religion	3	-	-	-	3	5,08 %
<b>TOTAL</b>		42	4	12	1	59	100
<b>PERCENTAGE (%)</b>		71,18 %	6,77 %	20,33 %	1,69 %	100	

(Source: Research Results of Types and Function of Taboo Words in Fast Six Movie, 2015)

As Wardaugh discussed there are seven types of taboo words, they are mother in law, animal, sex, death, excretion, bodily function and religion. Six of them appear in the conversations spoken by the characters in the movie. From the table above, it can be noticed that the most dominant type used by the characters is death, which appears 21 times (35,59%). Then, the second highest frequency is excretion which appears 17 times (28,81%). The third highest frequency is bodily function which appears 10 times (16,94%). The fourth highest frequency mother in law which appears 5 times (8,47%). Then the fifth highest frequency which has the same percentage is sex and religion which appear 3 times (5, 08%). Among all the types of taboo words, only animal did not appear in the film Fast Six.

Table 4.1 above also shows that all functions of taboo words are found in the movie. However, each of them has a different frequency. There are four functions of taboo words, namely to show contempt, to draw attention to oneself, to be provocative, and to mock authority. From those four functions, the highest frequency of functions of taboo words is to draw attention to oneself which appears 42 times (71,18%). To be provocative is in the second position with 12 occurrences. Next, to show contempt takes the third position with 4 occurrences (6, 77%) and the last position is to mock authority which only occurs once and gets 1,69%.

In terms of type of taboo words in Fast Furious Series 6 movie, death is employed 21 times, and this number is hugely different from other types. Death becomes the most



frequent type used by the characters because it is considered to be the most effective way to insult someone. Table 4.1 shows that, death mostly functioned to draw attention to oneself. The characters in Fast Furious Series 6 movie frequently utter death type when they want to show their attention or ask for attention toward the addressee. They also utter death to gain the interest through powerful language whose connotation can stimulate an instant reaction from the audience or listeners. Meanwhile, sex and religion becomes the least to occur in the movie because the characters do not find that both sex and religion can effectively hurt other people's pride. This can be seen from the previous table which shows that the characters tend to use sex and religion to draw someone's attention by calling one's name with a certain type of slurs which refers to sexuality and religion.

As for the function of taboo words according to Wardaugh (2006), the functions of taboo words are divided into four; they are to draw attention to oneself, to show contempt, to be provocative, and to mock authority. To draw attention to oneself becomes the most dominant function found in Fast Furious Series 6 movie because taboo words can be the best expression to get attention from the interlocutor or from the listener since from uttering taboo words can attract the attention of the listener by using strong, powerful language whose connotation can stimulate an instant reaction from the audience. In Fast Furious Series 6 movie, the characters utter taboo words when they want to get the attention from their teammates or from their enemy. Then, to emphasize their disrespect and their desires on getting attention, taboo word is chosen as the best way to express their feeling. Meanwhile, to mock authority function becomes the least to occur in Fast Furious Series 6 movie. This function only appears once in the movie because actually the theme of the movie is an action movie which is not concerned in criticizing governmental stuffs. The function only appears when Hobbs asked the criminal about his boss. The criminal utter the taboo word asshole to indicate his dissatisfaction with government authorities in this case of what is shown by Hobbs as DSS agents. Nevertheless he tried to defense himself by saying that he got right to remain silent but Hobbs still uses his power to intimidate the criminal. The criminal utters the taboo word not directly to the government, but it shows his negative view toward governmental stuffs, which is seen from the way he comments on Hobbs.

## CONCLUSION

1. The first objective of this research is to identify and to describe the types of taboo words in Fast Six movie. All the six types of taboo words that consist of mother in law, sex, death, excretion, bodily function and religion appear in the movie. Only animal type cannot be found in the Fast and Furious movie. The highest frequency of the types of taboo words is death. Death appears 21 times out of 59 total data (35.59%). The lowest frequency is obtained by sex and religion with 3 data (5.08%). Among all only animal type cannot be found in the Fast Six movie.

Death becomes the most frequently used taboo words because it is considered as the most effective way to gain someone's attention. Moreover, death type is frequently used by the characters when they want to get immediately respond from the interlocutors.

The least frequently used taboo word is sex and religion. Therefore, it can be noticed that sex and religion are not effective enough to be used as an offensive word to debase other people's pride. Instead of using sex and religion as offensive language, the characters in Fast Six movie use sex and religion to draw someone's attention by calling one's name with a certain type of slurs such as a word that refers to sexuality and religion.

2. The second objective of this research is to describe the functions of taboo words in Fast Six movie. There are four functions that appear in the series: to draw attention to oneself, to be provocative, to show contempt, and to mock authority. All of the functions appear in the Fast Six Movie. To draw attention to oneself gets the highest percentage with 71.18% and appears 42 times. The lowest function is to mock authority with only 1 occurrence (1.69%).

To draw attention to oneself appears as the most frequent function to occur in Fast Six movie because it can represent the speaker's intention of using taboo words that is to gain attention and get immediately respond from the people. In the movie, the characters employ taboo words when they want to ask for attention from someone. Then, to mock authority appears as the least function to occur in the movie because of its theme. Fast Six movie is an action movie which is concerned in action atmosphere to the movie. Therefore, this kind of theme is not concerned in criticizing governmental stuffs which usually show some negative perspectives about the government in general.

3. The results of data cross-check with the native speaker about taboo words showed that taboo words are divided into three categories. They are: 1). Slang. This category consists of bodily function and death. 2). A bad word, consists of mother in law, sex, and excretion. 3). Taboo consists of religion. They believed because of the change culture and moral value something taboo in the past are not taboo anymore.

## RECOMMENDATION

Based on the conclusions above, some suggestions can be stated as follows:

1. To students of Linguistics Subject

In analyzing taboo words, students of linguistics had better pay more attention to the functions of taboo words which do not always mean that the speaker wants to hurt other people's feeling. They can be functioned to show intimacy or to maintain a good relationship by calling one's name with certain types of taboo words.

2. To English teachers

A movie which is the representation of human real life can be a good and interesting medium to learn about taboo words. Moreover, using a movie as the medium in learning

activity will be much more fun because the students can enjoy the story as well as study the taboo words that are uttered by the characters in the movie. By watching this authentic movie, it facilitates students to learn real language in the classroom.

### 3. To other researchers

This research focuses on identifying and describing the types of taboo words, and also describing the functions of taboo words in Fast Six movie. There are other problems like social status issue which is not analyzed in this research. Similar researches that will be conducted in the future are better to discuss that problem. In addition, other researchers can observe or study the relationship between the use of taboo words and social status in the society. Moreover, since this research only contains 59 data, other researchers who are planning to conduct a research with the same topic can use other movies that contain more data for their research.

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